Drought Prone Area Programme. On the basis of prioritization provided by the State Government, the following projects were sanctioned by the Ministry of Rural Development as per the Hariyali Guidelines with effect from 1st April 2003:

1. Under Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, three projects for an area of 16,000 hectares were sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 9.60 crores for development of wastelands in 2003-04 for the districts of Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun and Nainital and released Rs. 1.32 crores as first instalment of Central Share.

2. Under the Drought Prone Area Programme, 90 projects were sanctioned Under Hariyali at a total cost of Rs. 270.00 crores for development of an area of 45,000 hectares during 2003-04 and released Rs. 3.03 crores as first instalment of Central Share for these projects. Thirty blocks in seven districts namely Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champavat, Pithoragarh, Pauri Garhwal and Tehri Garhwal are covered under this programme.

Pharma Pricing Policy

511. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pharma Pricing Policy is before the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the status and by when Government are likely to announce the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) and (b) The Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy 2002' in February 2002. However, a public interest litigation filed in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore resulted in an Order dated 12.11.02 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002. This Department filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court of India against the Order of the Karnataka High Court, which has been admitted as SLP (C) No. 3668/2003.